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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/669,289	09/24/2003	Takashi Morino	1232-5162	6546
27123 7590 12/27/2007 MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P. 3 WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER NEW YORK, NY 10281-2101			EXAMINER HUNG, YUBIN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2624	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			12/27/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/669,289	Applicant(s) MORINO, TAKASHI	
	Examiner Yubin Hung	Art Unit 2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/24/07 has been entered.

Response to amendment/Argument

2. The replacement abstract has been received. Examiner also acknowledges applicant's indication of the inadvertent omission of underlines for the text added to claims amended in the 05/11/07 amendment.

3. Claims 11 and 12 have been added, currently, claims 1 and 3-12 are still pending.

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 2-10 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. See below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1, 3-5 and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakao et al. (US 2002/0060736, submitted as part of the IDS), and further in view of TIFF6.0 (TIFF Revision 6.0, 06/03/1992, by Adobe Developers Association, pp. 13-18; previously provided).

7. Regarding claim 1, Wakao discloses

- an image pickup unit which captures an image and generates means for generating image data representing a captured image [Fig. 1, refs. 14 (image pickup unit, which is part of ref. 10 of both Figs. 4 & 12) and 18; Fig. 4, ref. S401 (image data); P. 2, paragraph 42 and paragraph 43, lines 2-4 & last 3 lines; P. 3, paragraph 49, lines 1-3 (generating image data). Note that the image is compressed (e.g., by JPEG)]
- an inspection data generating unit which generates means for generating inspection data necessary to inspect whether the image data is modified or not, wherein said inspection data generating unit adds second data to the image data, the second data indicating a location of the image data [Fig. 4, refs. 10 (inspection data generating unit), S402 (generating primary verification, i.e., inspection, data) & S403 ("Specific ID"); paragraph 62. Note that since the specific ID is used to determine the device that generates the verification (i.e., inspection) data and the generation method is associated with both the devices for the generation and the use of the data, the specific ID therefore necessarily indicates the generation method. Note further that Wakao also discloses using TIFF for the image file (paragraph 49, lines 5-9) and TIFF syntax

requires information indicating the location of the image data (e.g., see Fig. 1, "Offset of the 0th IFD" and PP. 13-15 of TIFF6.0]

Wakao further discloses multiple methods (using different hash functions) for generating inspection data [Figs. 5A and 5B and paragraphs 51-59] and stores, in the program memory, the program implementing, among other things, the selected method used by each specific image generation device for generating verification data [Fig. 1, ref. 17; Fig. 12, ref. 10; paragraphs 37-43]. Wakao has not expressly disclosed that different image generation devices can use different inspection data generation methods and therefore nor a first data indicating the generation method.

However, TIFF6.0 discloses applying different methods (in this case, different compression methods) to produce data of interest (in this case, compressed data) and add a first data indicating the method used in the image file [see the compression section on PP. 17-18].

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Wakao with the teachings of TIFF6.0 to use different inspection methods and add data indicating the method used to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1. The reason for doing so would have been, among other things, to improve performance such as achievable by allowing different, and potentially better, method to the specific data being processed (and, given that different methods are used, be able to perform verification properly at the verification data converting device).

8. Regarding claims 3-5 and 9-12 Wakao further discloses

- (Claim 3) an image compression unit which compresses the image data before said inspection data generating unit generates the inspection data
[Fig. 4: refs. S401 & 402; paragraphs 49 (especially lines 5-7) & 50. Note that the image data is compressed]
- (Claim 4) wherein said image compression unit compresses the image data in accordance with an image compression method conformed to JPEG or JPEG-2000
[Fig. 4: ref. S401; paragraphs 49, line 8 (JPEG compression)]
- (Claim 5) wherein said image compression unit compresses the image data in accordance with a lossless compression method
[Paragraph 49, lines 5-9 (using TIFF, which specifies Group 3 compression, a lossless compression method, among others)]
- (Claim 9) wherein said image pickup apparatus is one of a digital camera and an apparatus including a digital camera
[Fig. 12, ref. 10; paragraph 38]
- (Claim 10) wherein said image pickup apparatus is one of a scanner and a copying machine
[Fig. 12, ref. 10; paragraph 38]
- (Claim 11) further comprising a calculation unit which calculates a hash value from the compressed image data using a hash function
[Fig. 5B (see hash function H1; the image data is compressed, as per paragraph 49)]
- (Claim 12) further comprising a converting unit which converts the calculated hash value into the inspection data
[Fig. 5B (see encryption, the resultant primary verification data is the inspection data)]

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9. Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakao et al. (US 2002/0060736) and TIFF6.0 (TIFF Revision 6.0, 06/03/1992, by Adobe Developers Association, pp. 13-18) as applied to claims 1, 3-5 and 9-12 above, and further in view of Lanthaler (EP 1211587 A1).

10. Regarding claim 6, Wakao discloses all limitations of its parent, claim 1.

Wakao does not expressly disclose the following, which is taught by Lanthaler:

- wherein said inspection data generating unit generates second inspection data necessary to inspect whether additional data of the image data is modified or not
[Refs. 28 (additional data to a set of data 26) & 30 (second inspection data) of Figs. 2 & 3; Fig. 4, refs 58 & 60; Col. 5, paragraph 23]

Wakao is combinable with Lanthaler because both have aspects that are from the same field of endeavor of data integrity.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Wakao with the teaching of Lanthaler as recited above. The motivation would have been to be able to ensure the integrity of the additional data, as Lanthaler indicates in Col. 5, paragraph 23, lines 50-54].

Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Lanthaler with Wakao to obtain the invention as specified in claim 6.

11. Regarding claim 7, note that Wakao discloses adding data indicating the method for generating inspection data for data of interest (e.g., the image data) and data indicating the location of that data of interest; therefore it would have been obvious to do the same for the additional data and the motivation would have been to be able to

subsequently locate and retrieve the additional data and to validate its integrity using its corresponding inspection data. Note further that Lanthaler discloses adding the additional data, as per the analysis of claim 6 [specifically, see Fig. 3, ref. 28 (addition data that is added to the file of ref. 24)].

12. Regarding claim 8, note that Wakao further discloses adding the identifier of the image pick device [Fig. 4, refs. 10 & S403 "Specific ID" paragraph 60, last 3 lines].

Conclusion and Contact Information

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- Belu (US 2001/0143792 A1) – discloses including decompression engine along with the compressed data in a self-extracting file; different compression methods can be used for different files
- Wan (US 2004/0028049 A1, previously cited) – also discloses applying different compression algorithms to different sections of an image and record the different methods in the header [paragraph 68]

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yubin Hung whose telephone number is (571) 272-7451. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 - 4:00. If attempts to reach the

examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew C. Bella can be reached on (571) 272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

15. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Yubin Hung
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2624

December 18, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yubin Hung', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.